

12mo
#374



TO THE PUBLIC.

When the public mind has been pre-occupied, as it is now, with matters of surpassing moment, I am fully aware how difficult it is for any one, let alone one so humble as myself, to obtain a hearing as to any thing of a personal nature. Notwithstanding this, I feel it to be my duty to vindicate myself from unjust and slanderous aspersions contained in a publication made some time since and extensively circulated over the State. I should have done this sooner, but for the delay in procuring some evidence which I herewith publish. If in performing this unpleasant duty, I shall hold up to the public scorn and contempt, the base tricksters, their aiders and abettors, who have attempted to injure me and others, they will have only themselves to thank for the exposure of their knavery. At the last session of the Legislature a joint select committee of the two houses was appointed, ostensibly, to inquire and report "why our soldiers had been paid in Confederate money instead of State treasury notes." The resolution originated in the Senate. If it ever passed the House I was not aware of it. It seems, however, that I was appointed a member of that committee, though the fact was unknown to me until after the committee had had several meetings. Though a regular attendant of the House of Commons, and attentive to all my duties, I was so unfortunate as never to have heard of my appointment until informed by R. Y. McAden, a member from the county of Alamance, that I was a member of the committee, that he was chairman, and that a meeting would be held that afternoon. This was shortly before the adjournment of the Legislature in the latter part of December, to meet again on the 19th January following. How this happened I cannot explain. It is usual to announce from the clerk's desk the names of members of committees, when appointed, and also the times of their meetings. I knew nothing of either. I

repaired to the place of meeting as requested by McAden and there found him and Mr. Warren. Soon after Mr. Courts came in, and then Mr. Ellis, who was also a member of the committee, on the part of the Senate. The rest of the committee, four in number, as I afterwards learned, were absent. The chairman asked Mr. Courts a few questions, and Mr. Warren wrote down the answers. Mr. McAden then said "gentlemen we will adjourn until after Christmas, when we will look into this matter."

Short as the time was, I thought I discovered a disposition to criminate Mr. Courts, as I believed for party purposes, and to furnish some excuse for his removal from office, which has already been accomplished ; and then it was that Mr. Ellis and myself, upon our retiring agreed, as his letter hereto appended and marked A will show, that we would endeavor to have justice done. It is not pretended that any regular meeting of the Committee was again called or held before a report was made, though it seems that the Chairman wrote sundry letters and collected such evidence as he thought proper in the meantime. The next I heard of the matter was that, on the 5th of February McAden, while the House was in session, called me into a room next to the Commons Hall, where also was Mr. Henderson, and read his report which he asked us to sign. The report contained matters which I did not know then to be either true or false ; it criminated both Messrs. Courts and Lewis, the State paymaster. I was not willing to sign it until I could read the evidence and judge for myself with all the facts before me. That I said so at the time will fully appear from Mr. Henderson's letters hereto appended marked B and C. I beg the reader to bear in mind this fact, and the date of this occurrence. That night I went to McAden's room and asked him for the report and evidence, that I might take them to my room and examine them. He declined to permit me to take the papers from his room, but again read to me the report, and as that referred to certain legal opinions of B. F. Moore and Thomas Bragg in relation to Mr. Court's power to sell bonds under the Ordinances of the Convention, and which I expressed a wish to read, he allowed me to take them. But he declined to let me have the evidence. The legal opinions were not read there, nor any other paper, ordinance or law, saving the report. I still declined to sign the report, until I had an opportunity to examine into the matter.

I was in the room but a very few minutes. I am confident of this, because I had an engagement to attend a political meeting that evening; in the Commons Hall, and I left as soon as I could for that purpose and was present at the meeting and acted as Secretary. On the next morning, I read the opinions of Messrs. Moore and Bragg, and when I reached the Capitol, McAden came to me and handed me a letter from Mr. Cunningham, the same published with the report, and asked me to read it. Soon after, he came to my seat with his report and wished to know, "what I had concluded to do." I again declined to sign it. He seemed excited, demanded of me the opinions of Messrs. Moore and Bragg, and Mr. Cunningham's letter, which I handed to him, and he then said "I am independent of you, I have again gotten Mr. Henderson on the report." It is proper for me to say that Mr. Henderson had signed the report, then taken his name off, and then again signed it. Mr. Ellis, the only other member of the Committee who seemed to be free from party feeling being absent. Thus it will be seen that, on three several occasions this man McAden attempted to palm upon me a one-sided report, withholding from me the facts which he had collected, except Mr. Cunningham's letter, which he thought would, when taken alone, influence me to sign. His purpose was to secure a unanimous report, and thus deal, what he thought, would be a crushing blow to Mr. Courts. Foiled in this purpose we shall see to what further dishonest tricks and subterfuges this pittiful pettifogger resorted. A few minutes after I refused to sign, McAden made his report to the House. What was then said and done? Let the report of his own political friend, Mr. Litchford, in the *Daily Progress* of that date answer. It is as follows:

"Mr. McAden from the Joint Select Committee appointed to enquire into "the causes of the payment of soldiers' claims by disbursing officers and agents of this State, in Confederate Treasury Notes instead of North Carolina Treasury Notes, which were authorized to be issued by the State Convention for the payment of such claims," made an extended report.

Mr. Watson moved that the report be ordered to be printed.

Mr. Foy said that he hoped the motion would not prevail at this time. He was a member of the Committee, had not signed the report for the reason that he had not had sufficient time to examine into the evidence on which it was based. He had met but once with the Committee, and that was in December last. He said that he was not aware that the Committee had had more than one meeting. He said that the Chairman had called his attention to this report and read it to him, but he had declinod

o sign it, for the reason that he had not examined the papers and evidence upon which it was made. He therefore hoped that the House would not order the report to be printed until he had time to write out a minority report, that they might be printed together.

Mr. McAden said that the Committee was in no way responsible for the non-attendance of the gentleman from Onslow (Mr. Foy,) upon the meeting of the Committee. The Committee had met some five or six times, and on each occasion, notice of the meetings had been read at the Clerk's desk. Every member of the Committee in the city, had signed the report but the gentleman. He had read the report to the gentleman yesterday, and last evening in his (Mr. McA's) room, and he understood the gentleman to say, that he thought the report correct, but declined to sign it.—Nothing was said to him by the gentleman of any intention to bring in a minority report, and no request was made for the report or papers for any such purpose.

Mr. Shepherd moved that the matter be laid on the table until to-morrow 11 o'clock, to allow Mr. Foy time to examine the papers and report, with the view of making a minority report. Upon this motion a running discussion ensued. The House agreed to the motion."

This report of what I then said, sustains me in the statement of facts I have made herein. And now as to McAden's reply. Does it contradict me in a single material particular? He admits I attended but one meeting of the Committee. He says there were several meetings, and that public notice was given. It is only material to my defence to say that I knew nothing of them, and that I do not believe that such notices were given. He says he read his report to me, but he does not pretend that he read to me the evidence or suffered me to see it, or that any other paper or document touching the matter was read at his room, or at either of the times when he read his report. He represents me as saying that I thought the report correct, but that I declined to sign it. How silly this is—what I *did* say in his room, referring to that part of his report concerning Major Lewis, was this: "Do you suppose he has speculated with the public funds?" "He replied that it seemed that he had." And then I said, "*if that was so* he ought to be cashiered." Of course this was conditional only, and based upon what McAden had said and which was found by me afterwards to be untrue. Mr. Henderson's letter shows however that I said in the presence of McAden the day before, that I would not sign the report without an examination of the evidence. Again, McAden says that I declared no intention to bring in a minority report. Was it necessary or material that I should have so stated? That, in fact, depended upon the opinion I might form upon an

examination of all the papers. It is perfectly evident that there was a design to keep these out of sight, and I never did get sight of them until the House ordered them to be placed in my possession, despite the strenuous and shameful efforts to the contrary of McAden, aided and assisted from the outset, as the *Progress* report shows, by his man Friday (Watson,) who stood ready to serve him then and also the next day, as the sequel will show in conjunction with another, as a swift and unscrupulous witness. On the next morning, being the 7th, I was ready to make a minority report. At his request it was shown to McAden before it was read in the House. I was soon after informed by Harrison, one of McAden's witnesses, that they had "shot and shell prepared for me." When my report was read, McAden caused to be read the following, purporting to be a letter from Watson and Harrison :

"RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 6, 1863.

R. Y. McAden, Esq.,

DEAR SIR:—As we have been requested by you to state what occurred between yourself and Mr. Foy last night, we take pleasure in doing so.

Mr. Foy came to our room about eight o'clock. He said he came for the purpose of examining the report relative to the Treasurer and other disbursing agents, and wished to take the report to his room. Mr. McAden preferred that the report should be examined there; to which Mr. Foy did not object. The report was handed to Mr. Foy. He carefully read it over, and they compared it with the various ordinances of the Convention, and the evidence filed with the report, and commented on it. Mr. Foy then remarked, that he heartily concurred in the report of the committee, and said Maj. Lewis ought to be turned out of his office. To which Mr. McAden replied, that Maj. Lewis had resigned. Mr. Foy then said, he did not see anything wrong in the report, and that he would sign it, but first desired to read the defence of the Treasurer. Mr. McAden gave him the opinions of Messrs. Bragg and Moore, and stated that he had appended them to the report.

Mr. Foy gave no intimation that he was dissatisfied in any manner with the report of the committee, or that he wanted further time for examination, or of any intention to file a minority report.

Yours truly,

E. F. WATSON,
SAM'L. S. HARRISON,

It will be seen that it bears date the 6th, but that is not the true date. It was not written until after the House met on the 7th, and after McAden had read my report, as Harrison admitted to me. This was the "shot and shell" with which I was to be killed off. Who prepared it? Why no body but McAden himself. It is in

his hand-writing, as an inspection of the paper will show, and was written by him at his desk in the Commons Hall, in other words, a letter from himself to himself, and then and there signed by his but too willing tools and coadjutors. "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." Neither McAden nor his witnesses will dare deny either of these facts. They are too well known to many members of the House for them to do it. This false statement was intended to hold me up as the mere tool of others, and thus, as he supposed, break the force of the minority report. When it was read, owing to the difficulty of hearing in the House of Commons, I did not clearly understand its purport. An examination, however, as soon as I could get possession of the paper, satisfied me, and I then demanded of Harrison a paper retracting the statement, which he admitted to me was in several particulars untrue; but I believe he was prevented from signing it by McAden. Finally it was said that the majority and the minority reports would be published, and would go out for what they were worth, and that all matters of a personal nature had as well be dropped.

To this I assented, as I did not wish to keep alive any such controversy. I should have stated that I found this paper, which was no part of the report, had been sent to the public printer to be printed with the reports. Here was another piece of dishonorable petty trickery. I brought the matter to the attention of the House, and the paper was ordered by the House to be withdrawn from the public printer, which was done. After the Legislature had finally adjourned, I saw a notice in the *Standard* that, by request, would be published a number of the majority and minority reports for circulation. I have one of them before me now, and it is the publication which has called from me this paper. It purports to be Legislative Document, No. 24. But there is published as a part of this public document, a letter from Mr. Hoyt, as further testimony, and which was not before the committee so far as I believe or have heard, and certainly was not laid before the Legislature; and also the above quoted letter, signed by Watson and Harrison, which the House had expressly ordered not to be printed as a part of the Document, and yet this all comes out as a regular document, printed by order of the House. Could impudence and fraud go further than this? For it will be seen

before I get through that, while the perpetrators of it were annexing evidence, as they thought to help out their charges, there was a large portion of the evidence in the hands of McAden, when he made his report, which has been suppressed and not yet published. I charged this upon him in the House of Commons and he did not deny it. But to return to his witnesses. They admit that I wanted to take the papers to my room to examine them. McAden, they say, preferred my doing it there. That is, he refused my request. And then, it is said, I carefully examined the report, ordnances and evidence, comparing the same, and that I heartily concurred in the report. Not one word of which is true save that the report was read to me by McAden.

Did McAden pretend that this was so when I made my statement in the House of Commons, and which I have before given as reported in the *Progress* together with his reply? Where then were his witnesses? There were some five or six Ordinances of the Convention bearing on the subject, several tables of figures, annexed to the report, besides the evidence reported, and the long written opinions of Messrs. Bragg and Moore, and I now say if any one will read them as published he will find that it will take him more than one hour to do so, let alone the time required to understand what he was reading. I remained but a few minutes and these men know the thing was impossible in that time. But it is said "I heartily concurred in the report," and said I would sign it but first wished to read Mr. Courts' defence. If I heartily concurred in the report and intended to sign it, what difference could it make whether I did so before or after reading Mr. Courts' defence? Can any reasonable man give a sensible reason for such conduct? I had refused to sign the report in the morning as Mr. Henderson's letter shows. I again refused on the next morning when pressed by McAden, and after he had given me Mr. Cunningham's letter to read. If I had heartily concurred in the report why all this trouble on the part of McAden? And if I had the night before carefully compared all the evidence with the report, and commented on it, and then heartily concurred in the report, why did McAden hand me the letter of Mr. Cunningham to read in the morning? For according to these willing witnesses I had already read it, commented on it, and compared it with the report. Such is the tissue of falsehood and absurdity

in which these willing witnesses have involved themselves.

The great mistake I made when McAden declined to let me have the papers, which in all fairness and courtesy I was entitled to, was, in remaining in their room one moment after that time. Had I known them then, as well as I do now, I never would have placed myself in such a situation, or having done so would have fled from them as from a pestilence, when I discovered my error. I dismiss these poor tools of McAden to the infamy which they so richly merit. I have referred herein to the letters of Mr. Henderson and Mr. Ellis. I also annex letters marked D and E from Daniel L. Russel and J. B. Carpenter, also members of the Committee, and all signers of the majority report, save Mr. Ellis. It will be seen that these letters differ in some respects. Henderson, Russel and Ellis say they attended no meeting of the Committee, nor knew of any after December. I did not, and therefore there could have been none that was regular, as there was no quorum, Carpenter says however that, he was present at one at the second session, when the Chairman read certain letters as evidence which he had received after the adjournment. Why were not these letters submitted to a full Committee? Mr. Ellis says that but little of the evidence, taken when he was present, is published with the report, and that Mr. Richardson's evidence, (Mr. Court's chief clerk) is entirely omitted. Mr. Russel saw no evidence taken after December, says he heard enough to satisfy him before, and did not read the evidence, and knows that Mr. Richardson's was not published, which stated that part of the 8 per cent. Bonds issued to J. G. Williams & Co., were for Treasury Notes funded, while Mr. Williams said he obtained all he got with Confederate money. Mr. Henderson says he heard Mr. Richardson's evidence, but don't know why it was not filed with the report and published. But Mr. Carpenter's letter is rich in this particular, and furnishes a clue to unravel the mystery. He states that the Chairman read the evidence to some of the committee at the Adjourned Session as already stated, and then adds in reply to my question "*I am satisfied that some of the evidence was not published, and the reason was that it could not possibly have any bearing on the subject, to wit, letters stating that these Bonds had been obtained by Treasury Notes.*" Simple Mr. Carpenter. There were deeper and longer heads on that Com-

mittee than yours. So that evidence was deliberately suppressed, and they made you believe that it could not possibly have any bearing on the subject.

In the minority report, I combatted the position of the majority, that all the 8 per cent. Bonds were *sold* by Mr. Courts, whereas it was very certain that a large portion of them had been issued for Treasury notes, under the provisions of the Ordinance requiring the Treasurer to fund them, and about which he had no discretion whatever. I did not then know that the evidence on this point had been suppressed for the express purpose, as now appears, of making out a false case against Mr. Courts.

And now I ask, could anything have been more infamous? I learn that not only the evidence of Mr. Richardson was withheld, but of the following: Branch & Son, Petersberg, Va.; T. W. Dewey, Charlotte; W. H. H. Tucker, John W. Albertson and Geo. W. Mordecai, Raleigh, and Jesse H. Lindsay, Greensboro'.

I excuse Mr. Carpenter, in his simplicity, from any blame in the suppression of this testimony.

Mr. Henderson is an honorable man, who was only too careless, I think, in signing a report without proper care and examination. And there may be others entitled to the same excuse. But what shall be said for this man Mr. McAden, and such as he is, who seems to have had the chief management of the matter, and whose villainies towards Mr. Courts and myself, I have been compelled to expose? I charge him here with deliberately suppressing important testimony, which every consideration of justice and truth, and the oath he had taken as a member of the Assembly, required him to introduce. I charge him with preparing and procuring to be signed a statement as regards myself which he knew to be false, when I had done him no earthly injury, save to refuse to be used by him in his unholy purpose, and because I had, in discharge of a public duty, made a report differing from that made by him. And lastly, I charge him with adding to and publishing, as a legislative document, what was no part of it when it came from the Legislature, and thus attempting to practice a fraud upon the public.

And so I dismiss R. Y. McAden. I confess that I can

find no language adequate to express the scorn and contempt which I feel for such a creature.

J. H. FOY.

RICHLANDS, ONSLOW CO., N. C., }
May 13, 1863. }

A PPENDIX.

A

CAMP 30th REGIMENT, NEAR }
 FREDERICKSBURG, Va., March 21, 1863. }

J. H. FOY, Esq.:

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 12th inst. is just to hand. In reply to your several inquiries, I have to say that on the evening when yourself, McAden, Warren and myself were present on the "Star Chamber Committee," on leaving the committee room, you remarked to me that you intended to see Mr. Courts have justice done him. I replied that such were my intentions. I attended three or four meetings of the committee. I do not recollect which. I was first notified that I was a member of the committee by hearing the Speaker of the Senate announce my name on it. Notice of the first meeting that I heard of, and suppose it the first held, was read out by the Door-keeper. No other public notice of any meeting that I ever heard of was given; certainly none was read in the Senate. At one of the meetings I think we adjourned to meet at the call of the Chair, and some one (but I have no recollection who) told me when the committee would meet again. At the time of meeting the time we were to meet again was agreed upon. Our last meeting, or the last I attended, was several days previous to our adjournment before Christmas. We then adjourned to meet again at the call of the Chair. That call, so far as I know, or have been able to learn, has never been made. I heard all the testimony in the case up to the time I have mentioned or given at the meetings I attended. It was just related by the witnesses, in a conversational style, except the written statement of Mr. Lewis; but little of it is reported in the published reports of the committee. They have omitted to give any of the evidence of Mr. Richardson, Chief Clerk.

It was understood when I was last present with the committee, that the Chairman would address letters to a number of gentlemen said to have had monied transactions with the Treasury Departments.

I have heard nothing more of this celebrated committee until its distorted and senseless majority report appeared. My immediate return to duty here, after the Legislature adjourned, compelled me to ask a few days leave of absence before the adjournment. It was during that absence that the report was made. I look upon the majority report as a contemptible batch of nonsense, and cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that had the Legislature addressed itself in a calm, dignified and statesmanlike manner to the responsible task of providing for our troops, taking care of the suffering women and children at home, adopting measures for the development of our resources, it would have been en-

gaged in a more laudible and patriotic enterprise than it was in appointing "Star Chamber, Thumb Screw, Smelling Committees" to carry out proscriptive partisan arrangements, in the removal of old, well-tried and skillful officials.

I have seen the majority and minority reports, and I do not hesitate to give the majority report an unqualified condemnation, and to say that in my opinion there was no evidence before the committee to justify such a report. I should have cheerfully signed the minority report had I been present. It has my cordial approval. I believe I have answered the inquiries in your note.

If these patriotic, Conservative, committee-making, political gentlemen have nothing to do but amuse themselves by writing glorifications of their own acts, I think it would be well to turn them over to the enrolling officers, and send them out here to be amused with the euphonious cadence of "hep, hep, hep, with right-shoulder shift arms—double-quick."

You must excuse this scribbling, as it is a camp production.

I am sir, very truly, your ob't serv't,
JOHN W. ELLIS.

B.

MANSON, April 2d, 1863.

J. H. FOY, Esq.:

SIR:—Your last letter is to hand and the contents noted. I will proceed to answer your questions and then give my reasons for not wishing my name handed round in the public prints.

Question 1. Did you ever hear the Speaker of the House or any Clerk thereof announce who was the Committee?

2d. Did you ever meet me on the Committee?

Answer to 1st. I do not think I ever did.

Answer to 2d. I think I did at the 1st meeting of the committee. That impression is on my mind, and I think it is corroborated by a statement of yours in your remarks in the House of Commons on the occasion of your asking for the report and evidence in order to examine them, which statement was that you only attended the first meeting of the committee, and I knew I was at the first meeting, and also the further circumstance, which you mention in your last letter, that Mr. Courts came before the committee and we did nothing. I was present when he came before us at the first meeting of the committee, and he could not furnish then the evidence the committee wanted and they adjourned to another time, I think, at which time Mr. Courts was requested to be present. All of these circumstances tend to strengthen the impression on my mind that I met you at that session of the committee. If the committee met during the adjourned session, except the time to which you allude, when the Chairman read his report to several of us, I am not aware of it.

You misapprehend my motives in not wishing to appear in the newspaper. It is not from a fear of being criminated, and I did not think you had any such design at the time I received your letter. If you deem it essential to your defence and insist on publishing extracts from what I wrote you, I shall prefer your publishing the whole together with this, though I would rather not have my name handed round at all, in the public prints. But if you think it necessary to your vindication I will consent to your publishing the whole, but no extracts.

Yours respectfully,
L. HENDERSON.

MANSON, March 21st, 1863.

J. H. FOY, Esq.:

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 12th is to hand, and I proceed to comply with your requests as near as I can, although I cannot say that my memory is very accurate.

In reply to your first inquiry on the occasion of our being called by the Chairman into the Committee room, I think you said you could not sign the report, as you had not been present at any but the first meeting of the Committee, but that it seemed to you to be right, but you did not like to sign it without examining the evidence. I did not hear, that I recollect, you say it did Mr. Courts injustice. The impression made on my mind was that you wanted time to look into the matter before you signed it.

2. In reply to your second question I was informed of my appointment on the Committee by Mr. Warren at my seat.

3. In reply to question 3d, I think I must have heard the first meeting announced, as I have no recollection of Mr. Warren telling me when the Committee would meet, at the time he informed me of my being a member. As to the other meetings I am unable to say precisely how I became aware of their times appointed, whether we adjourned to a day certain, or whether it was announced from the desk. I am under the impression, however, that I have heard it announced.

4. In reply to this, I attended some three or four meetings of the Committee, can't say positively who was present each time. I think I met every member at some one or other of the meetings.

5. In reply to question 5, the Committee did not meet during the short sessions that I am aware of.

6. In reply to your sixth inquiry I do not know whether I saw all the testimony or not as I do not know whether the Committee held any meetings from which I was absent or not. I saw all that was given in at the meetings that I attended. I think I read all that was published before it was published. I do not think Mr. Richardson's testimony was published. I heard that. The reason for not publishing it I do not know.

I saw sufficient testimony, I thought, to warrant me in signing the report, although its tone and temper was rather more criminating than I would have proposed, but as no attempt was made to fix corruption on the Treasurer, I did not think I ought to keep my name from the report, as it stated facts correctly, as far as I could judge.

I write this for your satisfaction and not for publication, as I have a very great aversion to appearing in the newspapers, and do not wish you to publish it as I do not think it will have any bearing on the matter one way or the other.

-Yours, Respectfully,

L. HENDERSON.

BRUNSWICK Co., March 26, 1863.

MR. J. H. Foy:

SIR:—Your letter of the 11th instant reached me on the night of the 16th and I had made arrangements to leave at an early hour next morning for my plantation in Robeson county, and did leave and only returned this week. This is the first opportunity I have had to answer. You ask me to state how many meetings of the Committee relative to Ex-Treasure Courts' State Bonds, &c., I attended since Christmas. I suppose, of course, you mean the Joint Committee appointed under a joint resolution, to enquire into the cause why soldiers were paid in Confederate notes instead of North Carolina Treasury notes? I did not attend any meeting after Christmas, nor do I know that there was any held after that time. The meetings I attended took place in December.

You ask, who of the Committee was present when I attended? I believe all were present except yourself; and I recollect Mr. Courts seemed somewhat excited, and enquired where you were, to which no answer was given that I recollect of. Mr. Courts was present each time I attended the Committee, and Major Lewis was present at one meeting. I heard his statement. You wish to know if I ever read over all the evidence connected with the report. I did not read the evidence taken down by the committee at the meetings which I did not attend. As to all the evidence being published with the report of the majority of the committee, as far as I know, it is, except the statement of Mr. Courts' principal clerk, who stated that J. G. Williams paid for 8 per cent bonds in fundable Treasury notes, while Mr. Williams himself states he paid in common currency. You ask how did I know I was a member of the committee? Was it announced publicly from the clerk's desk or did the Chairman inform me privately that I was a member of the committee? To which I reply, that I do not recollect who informed me or in what manner I was so informed. I did not think there was any secrecy about the meetings of the committee, and took it for granted that if any member failed to be present it was his own fault. I heard evidence enough before I left Raleigh, in December, and after I returned in February, and the report was carefully read over to me by the Chairman of the committee. I was satisfied it contained nothing not fully warranted by the testimony before the committee. I therefore had no hesitation in signing the majority report.

Respectfully,

DAN'L. L. RUSSELL.

E.

ISLAND FORD, Rutherford Co. N. C. }
March 21, 1863. }

Mr. Foy, Richlands, N. C.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 11th inst., is at hand and I will endeavor to answer it as fully as possible.

I attended but one meeting of the committee to enquire into the causes why soldiers were paid in Confederate Treasury notes, instead of North Carolina Treasury notes. During the last Session of the Legislature the

time that I attended, I was notified by one of the committee. The committee had been notified by the Clerk publicly once or twice before to my knowledge, but I could not attend. tended there was a quorum I think.

I do not now remember who of the committee were present. When I attended I did not read but very little of the evidence. The Chairman read the letters he had received during the recess of the session, and having been present at nearly all the meetings the first session I think I heard all the evidence. I am satisfied that some the evidence was not published, and the reason was that it could not possibly have any bearing on the subject, to-wit, letters stating that these bonds had been obtained by Treasury Notes.

The way that I found out that I was a member of the committee, the committee was publicly announced by the clerk.

I remain, very respectfully,

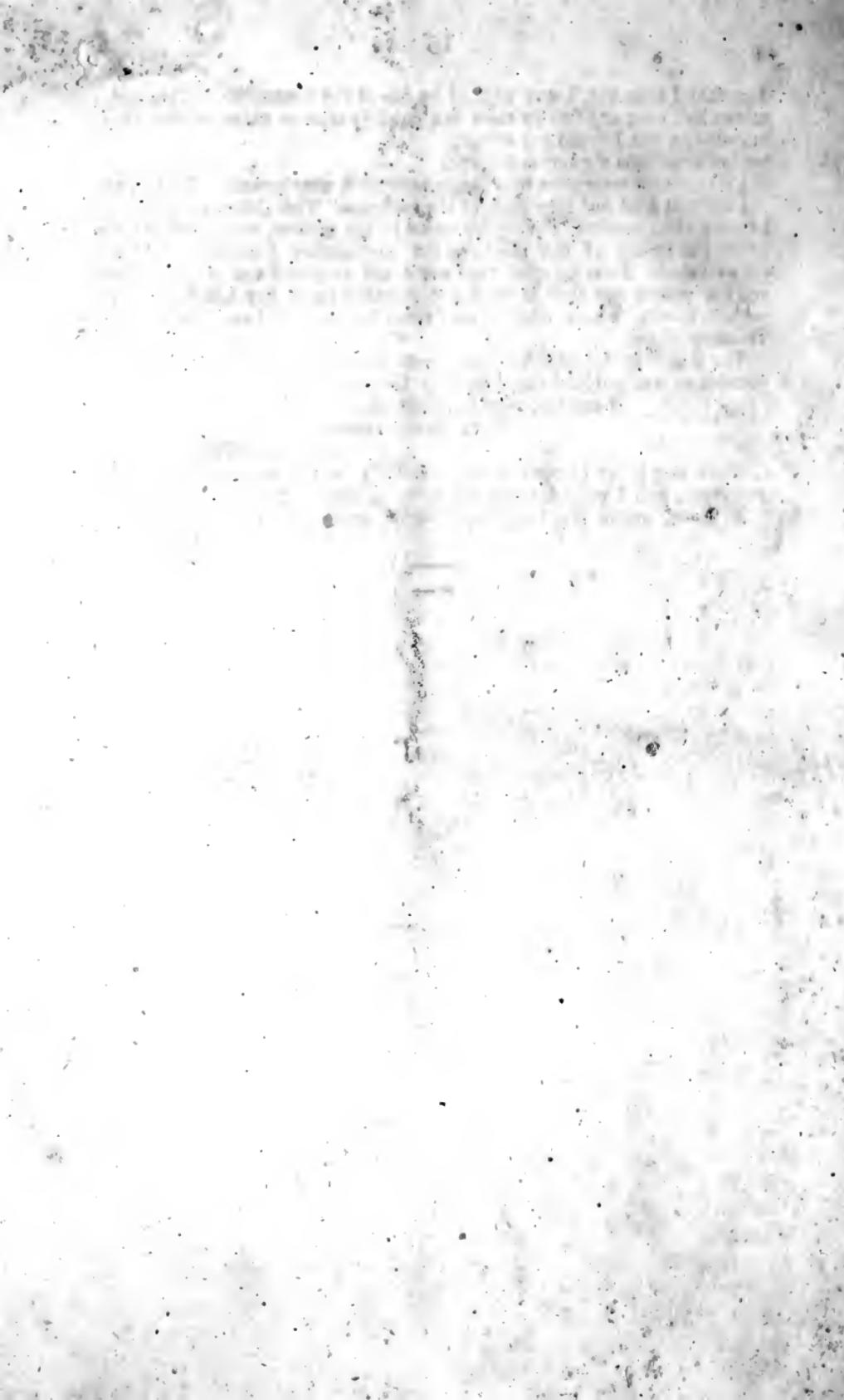
Your obedient servant,

J. B. CARPENTER.

If on any point I have not wrote as fully as you may wish, write to me again, and I will take pleasure in doing the best I can. J. B. C.

N. B.—I wrote Mr. Carpenter a second letter but received no answer.

J. H. F.



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